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ABSTRACT

The status of any college's alumni is one measure of the success or failure of that college. Recognizing this rather widely accepted principle, New College conducted a survey of its graduates who completed their BA degree sometime between 1968 and 1974. A questionnaire was prepared asking the graduates for information about their current address, current employment, on-going or completed graduate training and space for additional comments. Of the 371 questionnaires sent, an additional 32 percent were available for analysis. Some findings are: (1) the majority of respondents live in the local area including Nassau and Suffolk counties and New York City, with 70 percent of them living in the tri-state (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) area; (2) 63 percent of the respondents are currently pursuing or have completed post-baccalaureate education at 37 different institutions; (3) the proportion of undergraduates at the New College both past and present, pursuing the field of education is extremely small, while the number of students intending to pursue social service fields is extremely large. Yet these two fields are inversely represented among the alumni; (4) the number of New College alumni who have pursued additional training for education beyond the BA is high. (Author/KE)

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SURVEY OF NEW COLLEGE ALUMNI: 1968-1974

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SURVEY OF NEW COLLEGE GRADUATES: 1968-1974

INTRODUCTION

The status of any college's alumni is one measure of the success or failure of that college. Recognizing this rather widely accepted principle, New College conducted a survey of its graduates who completed their BA degree sometime between 1968 and 1974. This survey was the first of its kind attempted by the college. What follows is a report of the data derived from the survey.

PROCEDURES

A simple, returnable questionnaire was prepared asking the graduates for information about their current address, current employment, and on going or completed graduate training. In addition space was provided for additional comments. In developing the questionnaire, the objective was to prepare a form which could be completed quickly and one which would be as convenient as possible to return. This decision resulted in sacrificing many items which would have been of interest but it was believed that a detailed and complicated questionnaire would result in a lower response rate. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix A. Three hundred and seventyone Alumni Questionnaires were mailed.

RESULTS

Of the 371 questionnaires sent, 100 were completed and returned. In addition, information on another 18 graduates was provided by respondents or other people currently at New College. All in all then, information on 118 graduates was available for analysis. Those 118 respondents represent 32% of the New College alumni.

Table 1 presents the number and percentage of respondents for each graduating class. Of those individuals responding, graduates of more recent classes tended to respond more frequently.

TABLE 1

Number of Respondents and Percentage of Respondents
From Each Graduating Class: 1968 to 1974

<u>YEAR OF GRADUATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF QUESTIONNAIRES MAILED</u>	<u>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS</u>
1968	47	15	32
1969	53	6	11
1970	32	6	19
1971	51	17	33
1972	56	18	32
1973	54	19	35
1974	78	37	47
TOTAL	371	118	32

Current Residence of Alumni Respondents

Table 2 reveals that the largest number of respondents continue to reside in the local area defined as residence in Nassau or Suffolk county. The next highest number reside still locally, but in New York City (including all five boroughs). A total of 83 or 70% of the respondents list current addresses in the tri-state area including New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The following states are represented in the category "Other" in Table 2: Colorado, Virginia, Arizona, Tennessee, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Florida. The four respondents currently outside the US are located in Scotland, England, West Africa, and Mexico.

TABLE 2

Current Residence of Alumni Respondents;
Number and Percent by Location

<u>GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Nassau/Suffolk Counties	37	31
New York City	22	19
New York State	14	12
Massachusetts	6	5
New Jersey	7	6
Pennsylvania	7	6
California	5	4
Connecticut	3	3
Maryland	3	3
Ohio	2	2
Other States	8	7
Outside of U.S.	4	3

Post Baccalaureate Training and Education

Of the 118 respondents, 74 or 63% are currently pursuing or have completed some form of post BA training or education. Of these, 44 (37%) are currently enrolled in or have completed Masters degree programs, 12 (10%) are enrolled in or have completed doctoral level (Ph.D. or Ed.D) programs, 11 (9%) are enrolled in or have completed Law School, 5 (4%) are pursuing medicine (MD) careers, and 2 (1.6%) are currently in dental schools. Table 3 presents a breakdown of post BA training of the respondents by degree and field of study.

TABLE 3

**Post Baccalaureate Training and Education of New College
Alumni Respondents by Degree and Field of Study**

<u>FIELD OF STUDY</u>	<u>MASTERS</u>	<u>DEGREE</u> <u>DOCTORATE</u>
Biology	1	
Business (MBA)	1	
Dentistry		2 (D.D.S.)
Education	21	2
Fine Arts/Art History	3	
Feminist Studies	1	
History		2
Immunology		1
Law		11 (J.D.)
Library Science	2	
Math	1	1
Medicine		5 (M.D.)
Political Science	1	
Psychology	5	5
Religious Education	1	
Special Education	3	
Speech Pathology	1	

As is evidence in the table, Education, Psychology, and Law are the three most popular fields these respondents have pursued. A list of the graduate and professional schools which these students have attended or are currently attending is included in Table 4. All in all, 37 different graduate or professional schools are represented, with the largest number of alumni doing their post baccalaureate work at Hofstra (n=15), followed by Columbia Teachers College (N=8), New York University (N=6), SUNY Stonybrook (N=4), Columbia Graduate Faculties (N=3) and Temple (N=3) in order of frequency of attendance by New College alumni.

TABLE 4

Graduate and Professional Schools Attended by
New College Alumni Respondents

<u>SCHOOL (In Alphabetical Order)</u>	<u>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS ATTENDING</u>
Adelphi University	1
Brooklyn College	2
Case Western Reserve	1
Columbia University, Graduate Faculties	3
Columbia University, Teachers College	8
Cornell University	1
Fordham University	1
Goddard College	1
Hebrew Union College	1
Hofstra University	15
Indiana University	1
Jersey City State College	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	1
Montclair State	1
New York University	6
Queens College	1
Rice University	1
Rutgers University	1
San Francisco State	1
St. Johns University	1
SUNY Buffalo	1
SUNY Stonybrook	4
Syracuse University	1
Temple University	3
Trenton State	1
University of Arizona	1
University of Chicago	1
University of Connecticut	1
University of Maryland	2
University of Missouri	1
University of Ohio, Toledo Medical School	1
University of Pennsylvania	1
University of Pittsburgh Medical School	1
University of Virginia	1
University of Wisconsin	1
Vanderbilt University	1
Western New England School of Law	2

Employment and Professional Activities

Because of the wide variety of jobs held by New College alumni respondents categorization was not always simple. However, Table 5 attempts to list some of the major categories of positions held by these alumni. Wherever an individual listed two or more important positions since graduation, all positions are included. Also, for individuals who are currently in graduate or professional schools and at the same time are employed or have been employed prior to returning to school, their positions are included.

As can be seen from the table, education is the field which the highest percentage of graduates have entered. This is consistent with the fact that education was the most common area of graduate study by these students. The next largest percentage of respondents are in the business fields, with the social services, art related fields, publishing, and legal services in order of frequency. Not all the individual currently enrolled in professional training programs in the Social Services, Law and Medicine are currently employed in those fields; therefore, the figures in Table 5 do not reflect the number of graduates who will eventually be employed in these professions.

See Table 5 on page 6.

Respondent Comments

Space was provided on the questionnaire for respondents to make further comments if they wished. Approximately 40% of the respondents did make some comment in this section. Many of the comments (N=20) were general and rather neutral in content simply sending "greetings" and "hellos" to the College and its staff or commenting on their own lives in some general way. Nineteen or 37% of the comments were positive about New College. Specifically these positive comments referred to the value of their undergraduate educations and their positive feelings about the College itself. On the other hand, 7 respondents (14%) commented negatively about their undergraduate experiences indicating for example the inadequate nature of their preparation for the world of work or graduate school.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

A brief questionnaire requesting information on current educational and professional status was mailed to New College alumni. Approximately one-third of the questionnaires were returned.

The majority of respondents live in the local area including Nassau and Suffolk counties and New York City, with 70% of them living in the tri-state (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) area.

Sixty-three percent of the respondents are currently pursuing or have completed post-baccalaureate education at 37 different institutions. Specifically, 37% have completed or are working toward Master degrees

TABLE 5

**Current Employment and Professional Activities of New College
Alumni by Field and Percent of Respondents**

<u>FIELD</u>	<u>NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS</u>	<u>PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS</u>
<u>Art and Related Positions</u>	7	6
<u>Business:</u>		
-Accounting, Bookkeeping, Corporate		
Controller	5	
-Advertising	1	
-Computer/data processing/analysis	2	
-Sales (Insurance, Real Estate, etc.)	8	
-Stock Broker	2	
-Store Management	1	
-Personnel	1	
<u>BUSINESS TOTAL</u>	20	17
<u>Education:</u>		
-Elementary Ed. Teachers	8	
-Secondary Ed. Teachers	7	
-College Faculty	5	
-Other (College Librarian, teachers of special populations, school principal, educational administrators, educational researchers, etc.)	17	
<u>EDUCATION TOTAL</u>	37	31
<u>Law and Legal Services</u>	4	3
<u>Medicine and Allied Health Professions</u>	4	3
<u>Publishing</u>	5	4
<u>Secretarial</u>	3	3
<u>Social Services (Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, Therapists)</u>	8	7
<u>Other:</u>		
-Housewives	4	
-Peace Corp	1	
-Policeman	1	
-U.S. Forest Service	1	
-Performing Artist	1	
-Truck driver	1	
-Cook	1	
-Tennis Pro	1	
<u>OTHER TOTAL</u>	11	

and 10% doctorates. Thirty one percent of the respondents are employed in the field of education, teaching at all levels as well as performing a multitude of other jobs within the general field. Business related occupations account for 17% of the respondents employment activities. Other graduates are employed in the legal, social service, and medical fields in approximately equal proportions.

It is difficult to estimate the representativeness of the sample of respondents and therefore difficult to generalize to the population of New College alumni. One interesting observation which raised some question about the results of this survey is that the proportion of undergraduates at New College, both past and present, pursuing the field of education is extremely small, while the number of students intending to pursue social service fields is extremely large. Yet, these two fields are inversely represented among the alumni. This observation may further suggest that students do a good deal of changing of career objectives following receipt of there BA degree.

One additional observation is that the number of New College alumni who have pursued additional training for education beyond the BA level is noticeably high. Although no comparable figures for Hofstra University graduates is available, the 63% figure is most probably higher than the national or local average; this is also consistent with the expressed motivations of many entering New College students to pursue learning beyond the BA as reported in other student profiles prepared by this office. In essence, New College may have attracted in the past and may be continuing to attract those students who do not see the BA as the termination of their formal education.

Appendix A

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

NO POSTAGE STAMP NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

FIRST CLASS

PERMIT NO. 261

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y.

— POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY —

NEW COLLEGE OF HOFSTRA
WEED HALL
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550



NEW COLLEGE OF HOFSTRA
WEED HALL
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Hempstead, N.Y.
Permit No. 120

Dear New College Graduate;

I hope you remember the New College tradition of evaluating what it does and what its student and alumni groups think and are doing. Events of recent years are calling into question the purposes and goals of higher education, and in response to these national forces as well as to assist the College serve its current students, I hope you will complete the enclosed, very brief set of questions. Please note, that anyone having appropriate information about you can send back the responses.

I hope the months and years since you left New College have gone well for you. If you have the time, I would enjoy knowing of your current activities and your present thoughts about the College.

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Best Wishes,

David C. Christman
David C. Christman, Dean